



# The Reel west newsletter



Good Morning. Our location shoot today was at the El Rancho de las Golondrinas which is a Living History Museum. Sorry for the picture quality above, it was taken through the windshield.



This is our guide, David. I almost blew the whole production when I got there. I was the first one to talk to David. He said how great it is that everyone was dressed in period outfits. I forgot that we had been told not to mention making a film here because it was very expensive, and blurted out that we were making a movie. He asked what the name was and I quietly told him, "Actually, we are all on vacation and paying for the privilege of making a Western." David was thrilled. He told us we could stop anywhere we wanted and film a scene during the tour. I then introduced him to Aaron before Doc and Omaha got my attention and told me to shut up. But it all turned out ok in the end. They even let us bring our weapons in for the scenes. I lucked out on that one

Day 11  
Monday  
April 11th  
On Location  
At  
El Rancho de las  
Golondrinas  
A Living History  
Museum

Weather  
High Temp: 65+  
Low Temp: TBD  
Conditions: Beautiful



This was our dinner venue for today.

This is the Chapel, built in the 1700's it is the oldest building on the grounds. You will see this again later as we use it as a fort for a meeting of the Peacemakers.



Below is the inside of the building.



The interior of the house of Manuel Baca, the actual owner during the 1800's.



The  
carpenters  
shop

The Raton  
schoolhouse, and  
my driver for the  
week seated left,  
Doc.



The Big Mill from Sapello.

We took some time to shoot a  
couple scenes here.

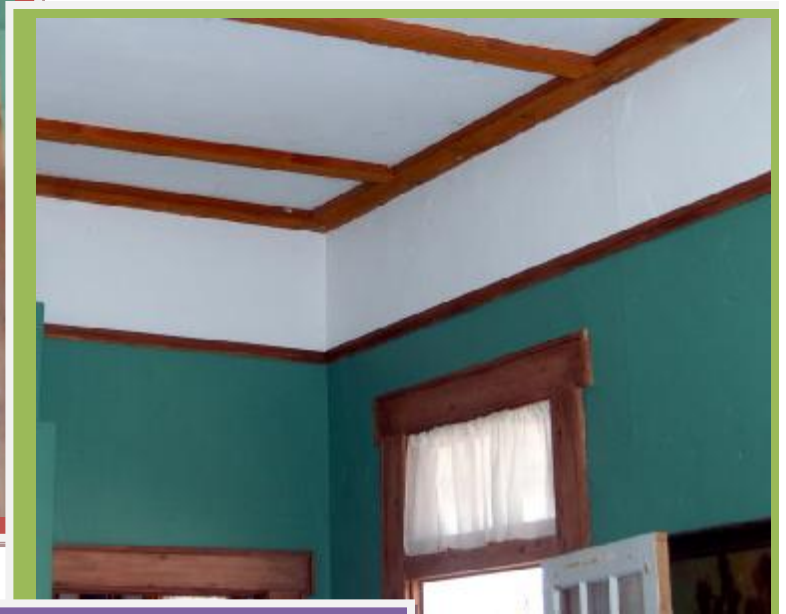
The Madrid House (mad-rid not like the Spain Madrid).

You might recognize some of the buildings in these photos. The El Rancho de las Golondrinas has been a prime site for movie location shooting since 1978. This house has been in several movies, and was originally built by a production company.

We also filmed several scenes here for our movie.



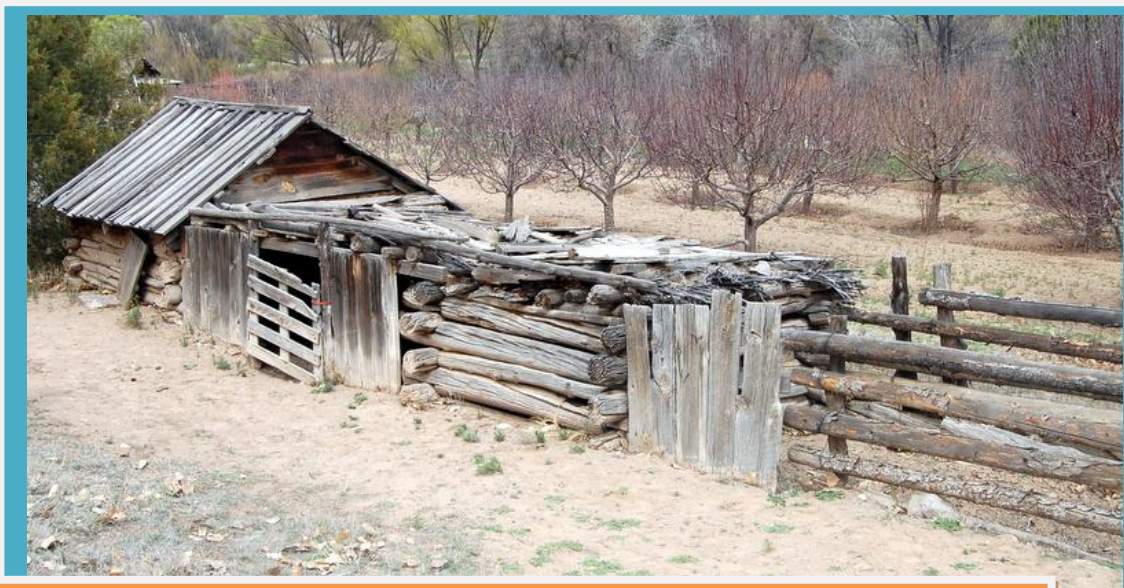
The staircase uses forced perspective.



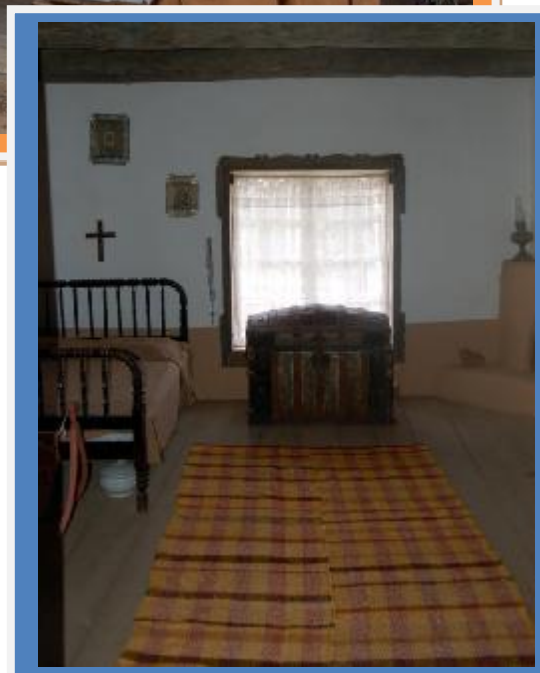
Above. The ceiling is not finished because it will not be seen in a camera lens. When the cameraman reaches the end of the green, he knows not to film any higher.

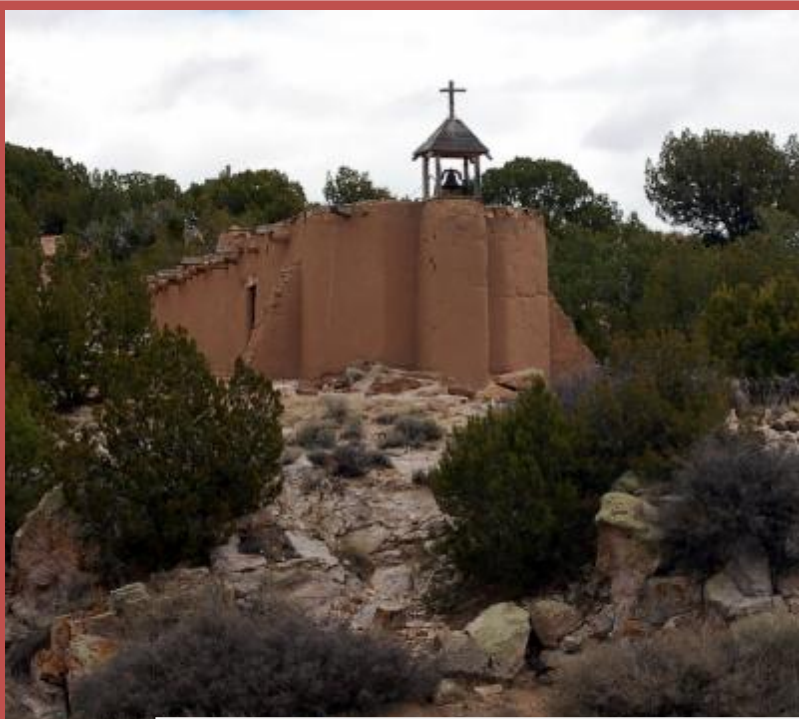
If anyone has seen *The Ridiculous Six* with Adam Sandler that came out last fall, you will recognize the Mill Pond above. The guys go swimming in their skivvies here. However, the pond was too cold for the actors, so it was drained and the water sent through several gas heaters to warm it up before being pump back into the pond. Just in case, there was a hot tub nearby.

If you have ever seen *Young Guns*, this is the pig pen that Emilio Estevez jumps into.



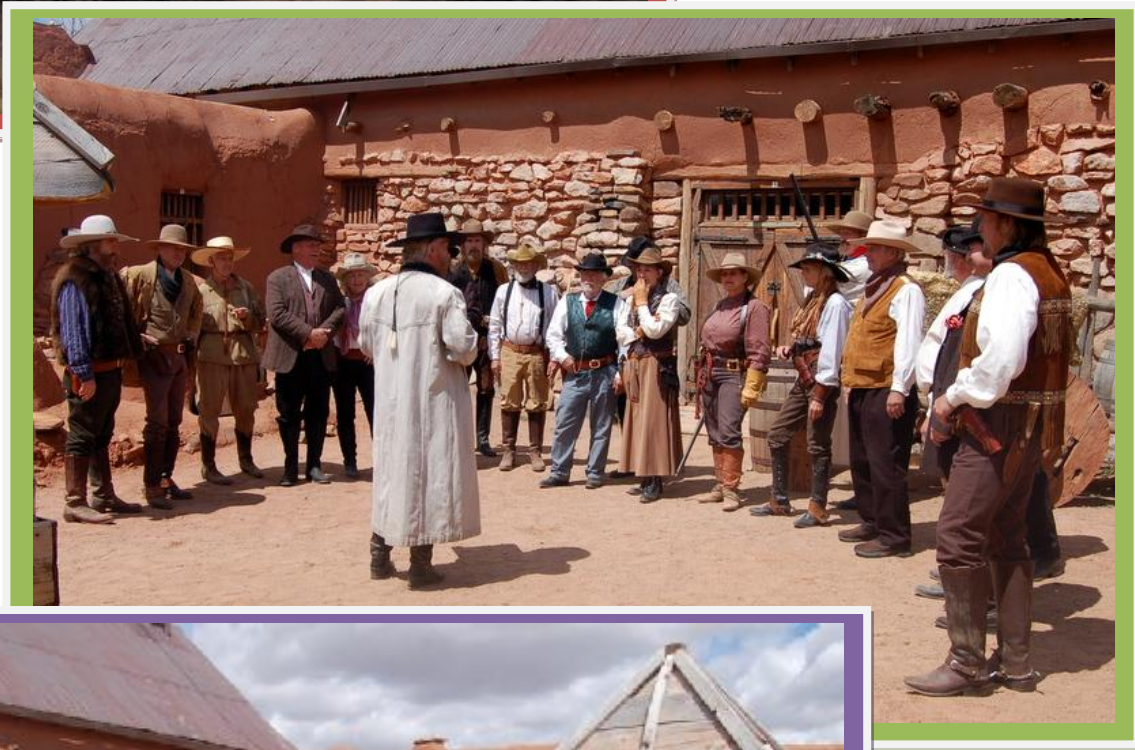
The Mora House, above and right, was also in *Young Guns* and *Missing*, amongst others. In *Missing*, Tommy Lee Jones runs through the house and jumps out the window to the right to escape from the Cavalry. Of course a stuntman did the actual stunt. Tough guy Tommy Lee could not walk to the filming site from the front entrance, he had to be chauffeured in a Hummer Limo.





The Penitente Meeting House. Built by actual members of the order using the actual tools and materials of the time.

Steve sets the scene for the good guys, The Peacemakers.



Since the bad guys don't have any scenes today, I stepped in to help out as the script person (teleprompter) and Jeff (Indy) took over as the Production Assistant.



Marcie, Steve's wife, has been handling the clapperboard. She actually changes the scene numbers every take and holds it up in front of the camera.

Steve gets goofy.

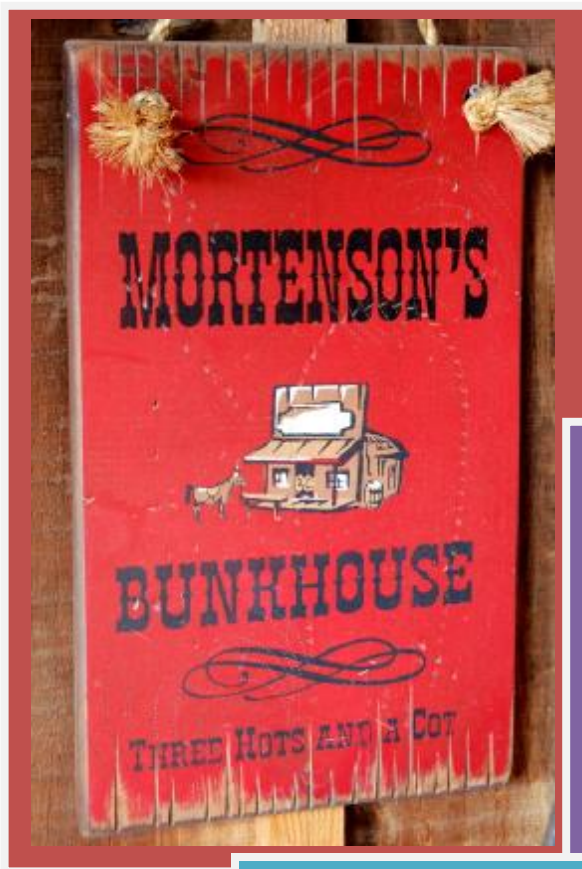




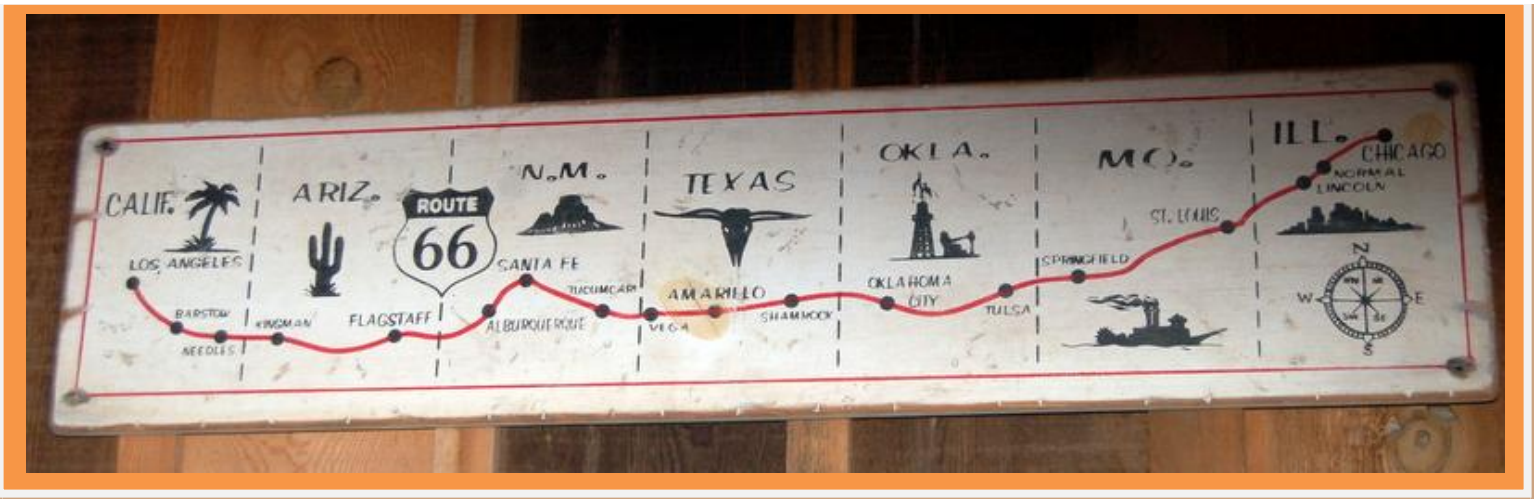
I think I will frame the shot above and hang it at home.

We stopped to visit the ranch of Cliff Mortenson. He is a world renowned silversmith and saddle maker/leather smith.

I believe that's Alabama Eddie getting friendly with the horse.







This was on the wall at Cliff's.

Cliff also has some land that Troy will be able to stage the horses at. We happened to be there dropping off saddles when Troy arrived. Four trailers full of horses.



It was another long day, but fun. The las Golondrinas was pretty cool. Think Old World Wisconsin, but with a New Mexico flavor.

I might not be able to send out a newsletter tomorrow. We are filming scenes around a campfire and will probably not return to the hotel until late. With a horseback ride through, I forget the name of the canyon, there will be good photos of scenery. I will keep the dates sequential even though they may be a day or two late.

Good night,

Ace